

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

Cheryl Dean Riley
Clerk of Court

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
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WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003
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Michelle Widmer-Eby
Chief Deputy Clerk

August 13, 2021

Via U.S. Mail
Tina Bowman
c/o Aaron C. Amore
Amore Law, PLLC
206 West Liberty Street
P.O. Box 386
Charles Town, WV 25414

Via U.S. Mail
Wells Fargo Financial,
c/o Jason E. Manning
Troutman Sanders LLP
222 Central Park Ave., Suite 2000
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

In Re: Bowman v. Wells Fargo Financial
Civil Action No. 3:12-cv-36

Dear Ms. Bowman and Wells Fargo Financial,

I have been contacted by Chief Judge, Gina M. Groh, who presided over the above-mentioned case. Judge Groh informed me that it has been brought to her attention that while she presided over the case, her husband owned stock in Wells Fargo Financial. Her husband's ownership of stock neither affected nor impacted her decisions in this case, which was terminated after settlement upon entry of an Agreed Order of Dismissal with no substantive orders issued by Judge Groh. However, her husband's stock ownership would have required recusal under the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and thus, Judge Groh directed that I notify the parties of the conflict.

500 West Pike Street, Room 301
Clarksburg, WV 26302
(304) 622-8513

P.O. Box 1518
Elkins, WV 26241
(304) 636-1445

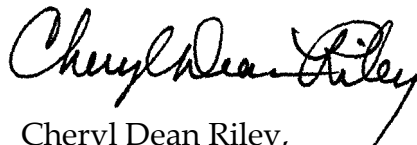
217 W. King Street, Room 102
Martinsburg, WV 25401
(304) 267-8225

Advisory Opinion 71, from the Judicial Conference Codes of Conduct Committee, provides the following guidance for addressing disqualification that is not discovered until after a judge has participated in a case:

[A] judge should disclose to the parties the facts bearing on disqualification as soon as those facts are learned, even though that may occur after entry of the decision. The parties may then determine what relief they may seek and a court (without the disqualified judge) will decide the legal consequence, if any, arising from the participation of the disqualified judge in the entered decision.

Although Advisory Opinion 71 contemplated disqualification after a Court of Appeals oral argument, the Committee explained “[s]imilar considerations would apply when a judgment was entered in a district court by a judge and it is later learned that the judge was disqualified.” With Advisory Opinion 71 in mind, you are invited to respond to Judge Groh’s disclosure of a conflict in this case. Should you wish to respond, please submit your response in writing by filing it on the docket of this case on or before **August 27, 2021**. Any response will be considered by another judge of this court without the participation of Judge Groh.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cheryl Dean Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheryl" being the most prominent.

Cheryl Dean Riley,
Clerk of Court